

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-21 are pending. The drawings have been amended to provide a missing reference number. Claims 6 and 17 have been amended to more particularly point out Applicants' invention. The Specification has been amended to provide a reference to a previous figure. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were objected to because of a lack of a reference numeral "101" and "102" in FIG. 2. FIG. 2 has been amended to provide the reference 102; the Specification has been amended to refer to FIG. 1 for the reference 101. No new matter has been added.

The Specification was objected to because use of the term "and the like" was alleged to not further describe "domain-restricted functionality." Applicants respectfully submit that the term "and the like" is well known to refer to "things of similar or like properties," "comparable," "analogous," etc., and thus in fact further describes "domain-restricted functionality."

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-15, and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Cisco Systems "Multimedia Conference Manager," ("Cisco") in view of Kanter et al., WO 98/59470 ("Kanter"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Cisco or Kanter, either singly or in combination.

In particular, an aspect of the present invention is to provide H.323 endpoints with a control layer which provides a communication domain identification (CDI) assigned to a user during call setup or other situations in which it is desirable to have domain-restricted functionality. In the call setup embodiment, the CDI may be used during the address resolution phase of the H.323 direct signaling mode. In particular, the CDI is used to determine whether the call is to a user at another extension of the same company. In the direct signaling mode, the communication domain identification control layer accesses a local database to make this determination. Similarly, the CDI may be provided during call setup in gatekeeper routed signaling. In this case, a communication domain identification control layer provides the CDI to the gatekeeper. The gatekeeper then performs the address resolution using the CDI to determine whether the call is to a user of another extension of the same company. Embodiments of the present invention thus allow for more than one virtual domain to be associated with a single gatekeeper.

Thus, claim 1 recites “wherein said H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier for address resolution during a media communication, said communication domain identifier permitting use of virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier”; claim 6 recites “wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers”; claim 11 recites “wherein predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers”; and claim 17 recites “storing a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI) in said plurality of endpoints, said CDI identifying an association of said endpoints with virtual domains associated with one of said at least one gatekeeper; and accessing said database to determine a CDI of a called party when a call is made”.

In contrast, as acknowledged in the Official Action, Cisco is “silent on virtual domains.” Kanter is relied on for allegedly teaching virtual domains. However, Kanter provides only a single virtual domain in association with a single gatekeeper. Thus, not only does Kanter not provide for a “communication domain identifier” or identifying virtual domains as generally recited in the claims at issue, but Kanter contains no hint that such a thing may be desirable. As noted above, a CDI according to embodiments of the present invention is transmitted by an endpoint along with an address and can be used to determine an identity of more than one domain associated with a single gatekeeper.

Claims 4, 9, 16, 20, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Cisco in view of Kanter and further in view of Christie, U.S. Patent No. 6,445,695 (“Christie”). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Cisco, Kanter, or Christie, either singly or in combination. Cisco and Kanter have been discussed above. Christie is relied on for allegedly teaching bandwidth management. However, like Cisco and Kanter, Christie fails to teach, inter alia, multiple virtual domains. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that its combination with Cisco and Kanter also does not teach, suggest, or imply the invention of the dependent claims.

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For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully requested,

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Marked Up Specification:

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In accordance with a specific embodiment, FIG. 2 illustrates a logical diagram of an H.323 interface to the packet network or LAN 101 (FIG. 1). It is noted that, while illustrated in network layer format, typically, the communication domain control layer 110 is implemented in a state machine capable of implementing the H.323 protocol. The H.323 interface includes a network terminal/device 102 including a communication domain control layer 110 according to the present invention and a packet network interface 13 that is coupled to the network terminal 102. As will be discussed in greater detail below, the network terminal 102 utilizes the ITU-T H.323 Recommendation protocol. The network interface 13 couples the network terminal 102 to the LAN 101. The network can include packet-switched Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) and Internet Packet Exchange (IPX) over Ethernet, Fast Ethernet and Token Ring networks.

MARKED UP CLAIMS

6. (Amended) A communication endpoint for use in a network comprising:
a controller configured to handle call signaling during a media communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another endpoint;
wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying [a] virtual [domain] domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers.

17. (Amended) A method for operating a telecommunication system having at least one gatekeeper and a plurality of endpoints, comprising:
storing a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI) in said plurality of endpoints, said CDI identifying an association of said endpoints with [a] virtual [domain] domains associated with one of said at least one gatekeeper; and
accessing said database to determine a CDI of a called party when a call is made.